

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 19, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1541

Introduced by Senator Ducheny

February 23, 2006

An act to amend ~~Section 1750.2~~ *Sections 1750.2 and 1752.5* of, and to add Section 1750.4 to, the Business and Professions Code, relating to dentistry , *and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1541, as amended, Ducheny. Registered dental assistants: licensure.

Under existing law, the Dental Practice Act, the Dental Board of California is required to license a person as a registered orthodontic assistant, registered surgery assistant, or registered restorative assistant if the person satisfactorily completes specified courses approved by the board. *Existing law establishes the State Dentistry Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in that fund to the board for purposes of the Dental Practice Act.*

This bill would *require a person seeking licensure in those specialties also to have obtained a passing score on a written examination and a practical examination, as specified. The bill would* also require the board to license a person in those specialties if he or she completes a work experience pathway to licensure. The bill would authorize a dentist to train an employee for purposes of specialty licensure, subject to specified terms and conditions, *including payment of an administrative fee by the dentist to the board.* The bill would also require the employee to comply with specified other requirements, including obtaining a passing score on the Dental

Assisting National Board exam. *By increasing the funds deposited into the State Dentistry Fund, the bill would make an appropriation.*

Existing law authorizes a person, on and after September 1, 2007, to apply for and be issued a license as a dental assistant upon providing evidence to the board of successful completion of one of specified programs, including 3 board-approved specialty registration courses.

This bill would provide that a person who has been issued a specialty license following completion of a work experience pathway to licensure shall be deemed to have met those specialty course requirements.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~no~~-yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1750.2 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 1750.2. (a) On and after January 1, 2008, the board shall
- 4 license as a “registered orthodontic assistant,” “registered surgery
- 5 assistant,” or “registered restorative assistant” any person who
- 6 does either of the following:
- 7 (1) Submits written evidence of satisfactory completion of a
- 8 course or courses approved by the board pursuant to subdivision
- 9 (b) that qualifies him or her in one of these specialty areas of
- 10 practice *and obtains a passing score on both of the following:*
- 11 (A) *A written examination developed, for the specialty*
- 12 *category for which the person is seeking licensure, by the Dental*
- 13 *Assisting National Board (DANB) and approved by the board.*
- 14 (B) *A practical examination for the specialty category for*
- 15 *which the person is seeking licensure approved by the board.*
- 16 (2) Completes a work experience pathway to licensure that
- 17 meets the requirements set forth in Section 1750.4. *This section*
- 18 *permits the work experience pathway to licensure only for those*
- 19 *assistants described in this subdivision and does not apply to*
- 20 *dentists or dental hygienists.*
- 21 (b) The board shall adopt regulations for the approval of
- 22 specialty registration courses in the specialty areas specified in
- 23 this section. The board shall also adopt regulations for the
- 24 approval and recognition of required prerequisite courses and
- 25 core courses that teach basic dental science, when these courses

1 are taught at secondary institutions, regional occupational
2 centers, or through regional occupational programs.

3 The regulations shall define the minimum education and
4 training requirements necessary to achieve proficiency in the
5 procedures authorized for each specialty registration, taking into
6 account the combinations of classroom and practical instruction,
7 clinical training, and supervised work experience that are most
8 likely to provide the greatest number of opportunities for
9 improving dental assisting skills efficiently.

10 (c) The board may approve specialty registration courses
11 referred to in this section prior to January 1, 2008, and the board
12 shall recognize the completion of these approved courses prior to
13 January 1, 2008, but no specialty registrations shall be issued
14 prior to January 1, 2008.

15 (d) The board may approve a course for the specialty
16 registration listed in subdivision (b) that does not include
17 instruction in coronal polishing.

18 (e) The board may approve a course that only includes
19 instruction in coronal polishing as specified in paragraph (8) of
20 subdivision (b) of Section 1750.3.

21 (f) A person who holds a specialty registration pursuant to this
22 section shall be subject to the continuing education requirements
23 established by the board pursuant to Section 1645 and the
24 renewal requirements of Article 6 (commencing with Section
25 1715).

26 SEC. 2. Section 1750.4 is added to the Business and
27 Professions Code, to read:

28 1750.4. (a) A dentist who holds a valid, active, and current
29 license to practice dentistry under this chapter may train and
30 educate his or her employee *within the dentist's scope of practice*
31 for the purpose of licensure in one of the specialty licensure
32 categories set forth in Section 1750.2, subject to the following
33 terms and conditions:

34 ~~(1) On a form approved by the board, the dentist shall certify~~
35 ~~to the board all of the following:~~

36 *(1) Prior to beginning training for each employee, the dentist*
37 *shall provide the following information to the board:*

38 (A) The specialty dental assistant category ~~that in which the~~
39 dentist will be training his or her employee ~~in and the name of~~
40 *the employee.*

1 (B) That the education and training the dentist provides shall
2 be in compliance with the regulations adopted by the board
3 pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1750.2, *and a copy of the*
4 *regulations shall be submitted to the board by the dentist as the*
5 *curriculum plan.*

6 (C) That all duties performed by the employee shall be done in
7 the dentist's presence. *Employees trained pursuant to this section*
8 *shall be considered bona fide students, as described in Section*
9 *1626.5, as added by Chapter 655 of the Statutes of 1999. The*
10 *dentist shall ensure that any patient treated by a bona fide*
11 *student is verbally informed of the student's status.*

12 (2) *Prior to beginning training for each employee, the dentist*
13 *shall pay a fee to the board to cover administrative costs not to*
14 *exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).*

15 ~~(2)~~

16 (3) The work experience pathway for the employee shall not
17 exceed a term of 18 months, starting on the date that the board
18 receives the ~~form required pursuant to paragraph (1)~~ information
19 and fee required pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2).

20 ~~(3)~~

21 (4) Prior to beginning the employee's training, the dentist shall
22 complete a teaching methodology course *approved by the board*
23 *that is at least two six hours-long in length and covers*
24 *educational objectives, content, instructional methods, and*
25 *evaluation procedures. The dentist shall be exempt from this*
26 *requirement if he or she holds any one of the following degrees,*
27 *credentials, or positions:*

28 (A) *A post-graduate degree in education.*

29 (B) *A Ryan Designated Subjects Vocational Education*
30 *Teaching Credential.*

31 (C) *A Standard Designated Subjects Teaching Credential.*

32 (D) *A Community College Teaching Credential.*

33 (E) *Is a faculty member of a dental school approved by the*
34 *Commission on Dental Accreditation.*

35 *The dentist shall provide to the board proof of one of these*
36 *designations or shall submit a certificate of course completion in*
37 *teaching methodology.*

38 ~~(4)~~

1 (5) The board may inspect the dentist's facilities and practice
2 at any time to ensure compliance with regulations adopted by the
3 board pursuant to Section 1750.2.

4 ~~(5) The dentist shall certify in writing to the board that the~~
5 ~~employee has a minimum of 12 months of prior work experience~~
6 ~~as a dental assistant before that employee applies for licensure in~~
7 ~~one of the specialty areas specified in subdivision (a) of Section~~
8 ~~1750.2. The 12 months of required work experience may be~~
9 ~~obtained by working for multiple employers, provided that the~~
10 ~~certifying dentist provides written evidence to support that claim.~~
11 ~~The employee may begin a training program before he or she~~
12 ~~completes 12 months of work experience, but may not apply for~~
13 ~~licensure until that work experience is completed.~~

14 (6) Upon successful completion of the work experience
15 pathway period, the dentist shall certify in writing that the
16 employee ~~is proficient in~~ *has successfully completed the*
17 *educational program covering all procedures authorized for the*
18 *specialty category for which the employee is seeking licensure.*

19 (b) As a condition for licensure for specialty registration under
20 Section 1750.2, an employee who completes a work experience
21 pathway pursuant to this section shall do the following:

22 (1) Certify to the board that he or she has a minimum of ~~12~~
23 ~~months~~ *1600 hours* of prior work experience as a dental assistant;
24 ~~subject to the terms set forth in paragraph (5) of subdivision (a).~~
25 *The 1600 hours of required work experience may be obtained by*
26 *working for multiple employers, if the employee provides written*
27 *evidence of work experience from each dentist employer. The*
28 *employee may begin a training program before he or she*
29 *completes 1600 hours of work experience, but may not apply for*
30 *licensure until that work experience is completed. The board*
31 *shall give credit toward the 1600 hours of work experience to*
32 *persons who have graduated from a dental assisting program in*
33 *a postsecondary institution, secondary institution, regional*
34 *occupational center, or regional occupation program that are*
35 *not approved by the board. The credit shall equal the hours spent*
36 *in classroom training and internship on a hour-for-hour basis*
37 *not to exceed 400 hours.*

38 (2) Certify to the board that he or she ~~is proficient in~~ *has*
39 *completed the educational program covering all procedures*

1 authorized for the specialty category for which the employee is
2 seeking licensure.

3 (3) Obtain a passing score on *a written examination*
4 *developed, for the specialty category for which the employee is*
5 *seeking licensure, by the Dental Assisting National Board*
6 *(DANB)-exam and approved by the board.*

7 (4) *Obtain a passing score on a practical examination for the*
8 *specialty category for which the employee is seeking licensure*
9 *approved by the board.*

10 SEC. 3. *Section 1752.5 of the Business and Professions Code*
11 *is amended to read:*

12 1752.5. On and after September 1, 2007, a person may apply
13 for and be issued a license as a registered dental assistant upon
14 providing evidence to the board of one of the following:

15 (a) Successful completion of an educational program in
16 registered dental assisting approved by the board on or after
17 January 1, 2006, to teach all of the functions specified in Section
18 1750.3.

19 (b) Successful completion of:

20 (1) An educational program in registered dental assisting
21 approved by the board to teach the duties that registered dental
22 assistants were allowed to perform pursuant to board regulations
23 prior to January 1, 2008.

24 (2) A board-approved course or courses in the following
25 duties:

26 (A) Selecting, prepositioning, curing in a position approved by
27 the supervising dentist, and removal of orthodontic brackets.

28 (B) Monitoring of patients during the preoperative,
29 intraoperative, and postoperative phases.

30 (i) For purposes of this subparagraph, patient monitoring
31 includes the following:

32 (I) Selection and validation of monitoring sensors, selecting
33 menus and default settings and analysis for electrocardiogram,
34 pulse oximeter and capnograph, continuous blood pressure,
35 pulse, and respiration rates.

36 (II) Interpretation of data from noninvasive patient monitors
37 including readings from continuous blood pressure and
38 information from the monitor display for electrocardiogram
39 waveform, carbon dioxide and end tidal carbon dioxide
40 concentration, respiratory cycle data, continuous noninvasive

1 blood pressure data, and pulse arterial oxygen saturation
2 measurements, for the purpose of evaluating the condition of the
3 patient during preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative
4 treatment.

5 (ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, patient monitoring does
6 not include the following:

7 (I) Reading and transmitting information from the monitor
8 display during the intraoperative phase of surgery for
9 electrocardiogram waveform, carbon dioxide and end tidal
10 carbon dioxide concentrations, respiratory cycle data, continuous
11 noninvasive blood pressure data, or pulse arterial oxygen
12 saturation measurements, for the purpose of interpretation and
13 evaluation by a licensed dentist who shall be at chairside during
14 this procedure.

15 (II) Placing of sensors.

16 (C) Adding drugs, medications, and fluids to intravenous lines
17 using a syringe.

18 (D) Applying pit and fissure sealants.

19 (c) Successful completion of:

20 (1) Twelve months of satisfactory work experience as a dental
21 assistant in California or another state. The board shall give
22 credit toward the 12 months of work experience to persons who
23 have graduated from a dental assisting program in a
24 postsecondary institution, secondary institution, regional
25 occupational center, or regional occupation program that are not
26 approved by the board. The credit shall equal the total weeks
27 spent in classroom training and internship on a week-for-week
28 basis not to exceed 16 weeks.

29 (2) The three board-approved specialty registration courses, as
30 defined in Section 1750.2, for registration as a registered
31 orthodontic assistant, registered surgery assistant, and registered
32 restorative assistant. *Any specialty license issued pursuant to*
33 *paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 1750.2 shall be*
34 *deemed to have met the requirements of this subdivision for that*
35 *specialty.*

36 (3) A board-approved radiation safety program.

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